

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising:
storing information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past with respect to a specific device and temporal data as to a previous start time of duplication of ~~said~~ the contents into a database of the specific device;

requesting a further duplication of the contents with respect to the specific device;
acquiring the information for discriminating content to be duplicated from the database of the specific device;

deciding whether copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed in accordance with a comparison between the temporal data stored in the database and current time; and

duplicating the contents in accordance with said decision ~~whether~~ if copying of the content is allowed,

wherein the duplication of the content is prohibited when an interval of time between the current time and the previous start time of duplication of said content specified by the temporal data stored in the database with respect to the predetermined device is less than predetermined amount of time.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium including computer program instructions that cause a computer to implement an information processing method, comprising:

storing information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past with respect to a specific device and temporal data as to a previous start time of duplication of said the contents into a database of the specific device;

requesting a further duplication of the contents with respect to the specific device;

acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated from the database of the specific device;

deciding whether copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed in accordance with a comparison between the temporal data stored in the database and current time; and

duplicating the contents in accordance with said decision ~~whether~~ if copying of the content is allowed,

wherein the duplication of the content is prohibited when an interval of time between the current time and the previous start time of duplication of said content specified by the temporal data stored in the database with respect to the predetermined device is less than predetermined amount of time.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein said contents is reproduced from an information storage medium of the specific device.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 4 wherein said information recording medium is a compact disc.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the TOC (Table of Contents).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim [[2]] 6 wherein the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code) as the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is ~~read out at said storage step~~ accessed from [[the]] an information recording medium and, if the ISRC is not stored in said information recording medium, data of [[the]] a TOC (Table of Contents) of the information recording medium is utilized as said discriminating information.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

checking data in said database; and
detecting modification using a hash function.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein said predetermined amount of time is a fixed value.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein duplication of the content is allowed when said discrimination information and temporal data of the content to be duplicated is not stored in the database.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 11 further comprising:

detecting a watermark encoded in the content to be duplicated; and

wherein said ~~deciding is made~~ duplicating of contents is dependent on the basis of the ~~watermarked information~~ watermark if the duplicating is allowed in accordance with the information for discriminating contents ~~interval of time between the current time and the start time of duplication of said content in the past specified by the temporal data stored in the database is more than predetermined amount of time.~~

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

updating the previous start time of duplication in the database to the present time when the duplication of content is ~~permitted~~ allowed.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The program storage medium including computer program instructions for causing a computer to implement an information processing method according to Claim 3, further comprising:

updating the previous start time of duplication in the database to the present time when the duplication of content is ~~permitted~~ allowed.